

CLAIMS:

1. A method of redeeming airline frequent flyer miles by an employee of an employer, comprising:

accruing a number of frequent flyer miles;

5       redeeming a selected number of the frequent flyer miles to receive a benefit in connection with a business-related airline ticket purchase; and

receiving a corresponding incentive.

10       2. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating an account for the employee, and wherein receiving a corresponding incentive comprises crediting the employee's account.

15       3. The method of claim 2, further comprising recording accrued frequent flyer mile information in the respective employees' accounts.

20       4. The method of claim 2, wherein crediting the employee's account comprises crediting the account by an amount based on at least one of the number of frequent flyer miles redeemed and the amount of the benefit received.

25       5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a corresponding incentive comprises receiving at least one of a voucher for airline travel, credits for airline travel, and credits that can be exchanged for goods and/or services.

30       6. The method of claim 1, further comprising charging the employee's credit card an amount corresponding to the number of frequent flyer miles redeemed.

7. The method of claim 2, further comprising creating an account for each employer, and billing the employer's account based on the number of existing employee accounts.

5 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising entering an agreement with a third party, creating accounts for the employers referred by the third party, and compensating the third party.

10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein accruing frequent flyer miles comprises accruing at least one of personal and business-related frequent flyer miles.

15 10. The method of claim 1, wherein redeeming a selected number of the frequent flyer miles comprises redeeming a sufficient number of the frequent flyer miles to receive a discount on a business-related airline ticket purchase.

20 11. The method of claim 1, wherein redeeming a selected number of the frequent flyer miles comprises redeeming a sufficient number of the frequent flyer miles to receive a free or upgraded business-related airline ticket.

25 12. A method for redeeming airline frequent flyer miles by an employee of a company, comprising:

- creating a client account for the company;
- receiving employee-related data from the company;
- creating member accounts for the respective employees of the company;

30 receiving information relating to a redemption of a selected number of frequent flyer miles by an employee in connection with a business-related airline ticket purchase; and

providing a corresponding benefit to the appropriate member account.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein providing a  
5 corresponding benefit comprises crediting the employee's member account with a number of credits.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein crediting the  
employee's account comprises crediting the account by an amount  
10 based on at least one of the number of frequent flyer miles redeemed and the amount of the benefit received.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein providing a  
corresponding benefit comprises providing at least one of a  
15 voucher for airline travel, credits for airline travel, and credits that can be exchanged for goods and/or services.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising charging  
the employee's credit card an amount corresponding to the number  
20 of frequent flyer miles redeemed.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising billing the  
employer's account on a periodic basis based on the number of  
existing member accounts.

25 18. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving information  
comprises receiving information relating to the redemption of a  
sufficient number of the frequent flyer miles to receive a  
discount on a business-related airline ticket purchase.

30 19. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving information  
comprises receiving information relation to the redemption of a

sufficient number of the frequent flyer miles to receive a free business-related airline ticket.

20. The method of claim 12, further comprising recording  
5 accrued frequent flyer mile information in the respective members' accounts.

21. The method of claim 12, further comprising entering an agreement with a third party, creating client accounts for  
10 companies referred by the third party, and compensating the third party.

22. A system for processing information relating to frequent flyer mile redemptions, the system comprising:  
15 an interface to communicate over a communication network;  
a processor that is programmed to create a plurality of member accounts, and is operative in response to the receipt of frequent flyer mile redemption information by one of the members to credit the corresponding member account.

20 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the processor is programmed to process a request by a member to exchange credits, generate appropriate exchange information, and update the member's account.

25 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is operative to communicate with at least one of a shopping server and travel server relating to an exchange of credits by a member.

30 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is operative to communicate with a credit card processing server in

connection with a redemption of frequent flyer miles by a member.

26. The system of claim 22, wherein the processor is  
5 operative to create a client account for a company, and to receive employee-related information from the company to create the member accounts.

27. The system of claim 22, wherein the processor is  
10 operative to create a plurality of member accounts based on employee-related information received, and to interact with the respective members to activate said member accounts.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the processor is  
15 programmed to record accrued frequent flyer mile information in the respective members' accounts.